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Minutes 12/10/2008

Arlington Recycling Committee Minutes - 12/10/08

Present: Gordon Jamieson (Chair), Kathy Carusone, Paul Addorisio (Recycling Coordinator), Ruth Yannetti (DPW), Juli Brazile, Anneli Mynttinen, Pete Howard (Secretary) - Thanks to Pete for helping to prepare the minutes

New Recycling Coordinator: Ruth introduced Paul who will work half time, 4 days a week. He lives in Arlington & has 3 children in our public schools.
 He will concentrate on increasing recycling in multi-family dwellings.

Community Collection Day : Gordon reviewed the coverage in the Advocate written by Elizabeth and Juli (both of their efforts are now posted on the town's recycling webpage) - Juli and Gordon also prepared a letter to the editor listing & thanking the businesses that donated reusable bags.

V2020 Survey Questionnaire Update: Gordon passed around a copy of the questionnaire. It features Gordon's chart showing the study decrease in MSW delivered to North Andover. It contains recycling/composting/collection bins questions that should help us with our promotional activities

Website Thank You Gift card for Charlotte Pierce: Committee approved a \$100 gift certificate to a store of her choice. Charlotte set up the original ARC web site which has since been included in the Town site. Gordon to follow up. [Post meeting - Charlotte emphatically noted that she would not accept more than \$40 - Gordon has purchased Trader Joe's card per her preference and will deliver this week]

Solid Waste Tonnage: New figures not made available but decrease seems to be continuing. Ruth discussed the negotiations w/ WM on a new contract to begin in July. Instead of a paper rebate, WM may provide large totes for multi-family homes. They are also proposing using single stream recycling [a process wherein a commingled recycling stream (i.e. paper is not separated from cans & bottles)] As this change (if implemented) will alter the annual solid waste/recycling brochure significantly this dec/jan the dpw will fwd a postcard to all households reminding them about recycling solid waste rules/regs. The postcard will replace the present detailed 6 page flyer - At least until the specifics of the new contract are determined. ARC requested that the weekly collection schedule be included.

Electronic Waste Meeting : Ruth reported that DPW may need to look for a different collection contractor. A component of the current firm (not our collector directly) was fined for violating DEP standards. A e-waste collection in the spring is likely, perhaps similar to the most successful one held at Lex high school.

Recycling LPs: The CCD flyer incorrectly reported that vinyl music records would be accepted. Gordon, who apologized to those who brought records, would like to find a way to recycle them & let the public know. Ruth/Paul to determine best process and report back in Jan.

Collection Networks - Clothes - paper - cardboard - books - bottles/cans

- Bin network expansion: The Committee voted to pay \$700 (3 mo w/ 2 pickups/wk?) for a WM cardboard bin at St. Camillus w/ DPW picking up the balance. [Post meeting - Gordon contacted St. Camillus and noted that a bin should be appearing in the near future - eAlert, Arl-list, DPW News to promote)

If this cardboard bin is a success then the cmte may consider sponsoring a bin at the Thompson in late winter/early spring

- Paul is working on a schedule w/ WM and Abitibi to avoid the overflowing problem of the town yard bins. One option includes the addition of a third cardboard bin at the dpw yard. In addition the plan is to place a sign at the town yard collection bins noting the location of additional paper bins
- We discussed the bin at RCN & whether we could include it in the public bin network - Unresolved
- Bin network (all types) mapping and website information is needed. This promotional work is proposed for the winter.
- Returnable bottle collection network/schedule (schools and the like)
- Gordon proposed publicizing the systems in place at AHS & Ottoson. Further development of this idea tabled until Juli & Nigel are present.
- Gordon also suggested that the trucks delivering supplies to the schools be used to collect waste cardboard & deliver them to the dpw yard bins
- Further in response to an email from Nigel, it was suggested that we work with the school cmte to not only address the cardboard issue but to implement a book 'recycling/got books' mandate system wide - School cmte member Jeff Thielman has contacted the cmte and has referred these suggestions to the appropriate sub-cmte.
- Juli to contact Stratton on in regards to the placement of an Abitibi bin in that location - They noted they wanted one at the CCD event
- East Arlington is underserved. In addition to the recent addition of an Abitibi bin at Thompson, the possibility of adding a bin at the Hardy School was discussed. Employee parking and student drop-off process needs to be considered further.

There will be an ECO Fair on 3/28 in the Town Hall. Friends groups have been invited to attend along w/ ECO-friendly businesses & SAVE. [Post meeting Gordon noted the MWRA to be a potential exhibitor and in particular to promote water conservation and their slow release fertilizer product.]

Warrant Article Discussions: Gordon is working on a PAYT article similar to the article that failed several years ago. Action by ARC postponed to next mtg.

The following topics are on the table but were not discussed.

Sustainability action plan

- Development of solid waste component
- Website development (agendas, minutes, membership)
- No waste lunch - State house/bottle bill

Next Mtg 1/7